



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Dixon, Robert
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Attorney DIX2035-006
Docket:

Serial No.: 10/083,332

Examiner: Reip

Filed: 25 Feb 2002

Art Unit: 3731

Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR
USING EXTENDED
INTERFERENCE FIT SCREW
SHANKS FOR SPINAL
STABILIZATION

**PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT
ACCOMPANYING
REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED
EXAMINATION**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8 (A)

Date of Transmission: 5/25/2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Vickie D'Alessandro
Vickie D'Alessandro, Paralegal

In response to the Advisory Action mailed 11 May 2005, Applicant presents this Preliminary Amendment as a part of a Request for Continued Examination. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION begin on page 2; a LISTING OF CLAIMS begins on page 4 and REMARKS begin on page 7.

Because the response after final was not filed within three months after the final rejection, a three-month extension fee and fee for a Request for Continued Examination are paid herewith. Charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account 19-4076.

Please note the enclosed new Powers of Attorney provided in this case, which has previously been a *pro se* matter.